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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,172	08/21/2003	Horst Stacklies	072261	7277
60474	7590	01/25/2007		
GRAY ROBINSON, P.A. 401 E. LAS OLAS BLVD. SUITE 1850 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33301			EXAMINER CHON, PETER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2609	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/25/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/645,172

Applicant(s)

STACKLIES ET AL.

Examiner

Peter Chon

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/21/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/28/2005 & 11/20/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Figure 1 does not include the reset signal (9) produced by the control unit (5) as stated in the detail description of the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The applicant must make more specific the meaning of, "defined absolutely".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 4, 5, 8, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kudo et al, USPAT 5517243.

As to claim 1, Kudo discloses in figure 2, a camera comprising a CCD sensor unit (14), a shutter in the imaging beam path of said CCD (11), a reset device (16, col.4, lines 58-61), and a control unit coupled to said CCD (15) for causing said CCD sensor unit to be reset after opening of said shutter (col.4, lines 61-63; col. 20, lines 11-13).

As to claim 2, Kudo discloses said control circuit (col.4, lines 61-63) to further includes a time monitoring circuit for causing said CCD sensor unit to be reset at a defined time (col. 20, lines 45-47; said control circuit varies timing to reset said CCD sensor and thus, resets said CCD within any desired defined time).

As to claims 3 and 4, Kudo discloses said defined time, as stated in claim 2, to be a time relating to the opening time of said shutter, and to be defined absolutely (col.20, lines 11-13; col. 20 lines 45-47; Kudo discloses said CCD sensor of said camera to be reset at a varying time after opening of said shutter. It is therefore implied

Art Unit: 2112

that the time at which the control circuit resets the CCD is a time related to (a time after) the opening time of said shutter. In addition, because it is stated that the said CCD reset time varies, it is implied that the timing is defined absolutely.).

As to claim 5, Kudo discloses a shutter, which is electromagnetically driven (col.8, lines 14-15).

As to claim 8, Kudo discloses a method for operating a camera comprising the steps of opening a shutter (col.4, lines 58-59; col.20, lines 6-7), and then resetting a CCD sensor after said opening of said shutter (col.4, lines 58-61; col.20, lines 8-13).

As to claim 13, see the above rejections of claims 1 and 8.

As to claim 14, Kudo performs the said resetting step based on the transient response of said shutter by resetting said solid-state device after opening of said shutter (col.4, lines 58-61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7, 9-12, 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kudo et al, in view of Dunton et al, USPAT 6,304,284.

As to claims 6-7, Kudo discloses a camera as stated in the above claims 1-2. However, Kudo fails to disclose a camera system comprising at least two cameras, with each camera comprising the elements as stated above.

Dunton discloses a multiple camera system (col.1, lines 28-34; Traditional wide-angle, panoramic imaging systems utilize multiple cameras, where preferably, the relationship between said multiple cameras are fixed so that when the two individual images are combined to form one panoramic image, the information relating to the images are known.).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention, to combine the camera of Kudo with the multiple camera system as disclosed by Dunton, in order to achieve a camera system capable of capturing wide-angle images.

As to claim 9, Kudo discloses as stated above in claim 8, a method for operating a camera system (col.4, lines 58-59; col.20, lines 6-7; col.4, lines 58-61; col.20, lines 8-13), but does not address a method of operation for a multiple camera system. In the above stated claim 6 however, Dunton teaches a multi-camera system (col.1, lines 28-34).

Therefore, it would be obvious for Dunton's cameras to open the shutter of the first camera, open the shutter of the second camera, and reset the CCD sensor units of the first camera and second camera after said shutters of said first camera and said second camera have opened.

As to claim 12, Kudo discloses a camera as stated above in claim 2, but fails to mention a camera system comprised of multiple cameras. In the above stated claim 6 however, Dunton teaches a multi-camera system (col.1, lines 28-34).

Therefore, it would be obvious for Dunton's cameras to reset at least one of said CCD sensor unit for the first camera and said CCD sensor unit for said second camera at a defined time.

As to claim 15, Kudo discloses a photography method as stated above in claim 13. However, Kudo fails to disclose a photography method for a multiple camera system. Dunton, however, discloses a multi-camera system as stated in claim 6 (col.1, lines 28-34).

Therefore, it would be obvious for Dunton's cameras to provide a camera system having at least two cameras, wherein a first and second shutter is opened, followed by a resetting of a first and second CCD sensor after said first and second shutter have both opened.

As to claim 16, Kudo discloses a step of performing a resetting step based on a transient response of a shutter for a camera. However, Kudo fails to disclose said step for a multiple camera system. Dunton, however, discloses a multi-camera system as stated in claim 6 (col.1, lines 28-34).

Therefore, it would be obvious for Dunton's camera system to perform said resetting step based on a transient response of said shutter for a multi-camera system.

As to claims 10, and 11, 17 and 18, Dunton discloses, as stated above in the claims 6-7 rejections, a multi-camera system (col.1, lines 28-34; Having multiple

Art Unit: 2112

cameras, fixed in relation to one another, in order to properly form one panoramic image by combining the pictures taken by each camera.). However, the timing of reset of the first and second camera's CCD, in terms of resetting at substantially synchronous times, or different times, is not stated.

However, with Dunton's wide-angle multi-camera system used in capturing panoramic images, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that Dunton's multi-camera system resets the CCD of the said first camera and the CCD of the said second camera, whether they are reset simultaneously, or one after another in sequence, in order to capture two distinct images where when combined, form one panoramic image.

Conclusion

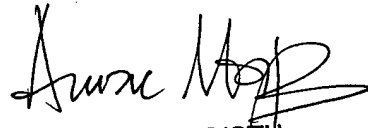
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Chon whose telephone number is 571-272-1556. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, Mon-Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amare Mengistu can be reached on 571-272-7674. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2112

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

P.C
1/22/2007


AMARE MENGISTU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER